They are funded through grant-in-aid given by the Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Their employees are not considered as Central Government employees. They are given various facilities as applicable to them as autonomous organisations.

Educational Programmes for Backward Classes

1758. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government for implementation of educational programmes for backward classes in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) The National Policy on Education lays special emphasis on removal of disparties and equalisation of educational opportunities of educationally backward social groups. All major programmes/schemes implemented by the Government including Operation Blackboard, Non-Formal Education, Teachers Education, National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education, District Primary Education Programme, Total Literacy Campaigns and Area Intensive Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities aim at universalising access, reducing drop out and improving learning achievement of educationally backward social groups.

Higher Education Becoming Inaccessible to Weaker Sections

†1759. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the higher and technical education is becoming inaccessible for weaker sections of the society;

(b) whether it is also a fact that their access to educational/ technical, private/public institutions is negligible; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to turn this social injustice into social justice?

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.